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May 30, 2012

Michael Machado, Executive Director
Delta Protection Commission
2101 Stone Blvd., Suite 210
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Dear Mr. Machado:

On behalf of Solano County, I am writing to express support for a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta which is currently being studied by the Delta Protection Commission (Commission). The commission was mandated to conduct this feasibility study by the Delta Reform Act which specified that the Commission must develop:

"A proposal to protect, enhance, and sustain the unique cultural, historical recreational, agricultural, and economic values of the Delta as an evolving place....The Commission shall include in the proposal a plan to establish state and federal designation of the Delta as a place of special significance, which may include application for a federal designation of the Delta as a National Heritage Area."

A NHA can serve as a valuable tool to help the Delta gain recognition as a place of national significance, obtain visibility as a destination for recreation and tourism activities, assist with public education, enhance the region's economy, and more. The Commission has made considerable progress on the feasibility study and has incorporated public involvement throughout its development.

Solano County looks forward to partnering with the Commission on this effort through a commitment of staff time and other resources as available, to be a part of developing the Management Plan and assistance through the advisory committee, public outreach activities, and collaboration on NHA projects within Solano County.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Seifert, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors